

FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK...

THE CROSS: A DIVINE REVERSAL...



We begin our Lenten Journey each year on Ash Wednesday by marking our foreheads with ashes in the shape of the cross...made from the palms of the previous Palm Sunday. We hear the say the words quoted from Genesis 3:19: *"Remember, o man, dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return"*.

God created us from dust and He **breathed** life into us. When we die, the **"Breath of God"** that has sustained our lives departs...we return to the dust from which we were created. But our deaths do not mean extinction. Our lives do not end when we stop breathing.

In the Roman Empire the cross was a symbol of torture and death. It was the most shameful form of execution for state criminals. Crucifixions were intended to strike fear and terror in people. They were public spectacles that took place outside the city walls. They served as warnings to the people not to mess with the Emperor or his representatives. There was no hope for the unfortunate criminal condemned to death by crucifixion.

Our Lenten journey ultimately takes us to Good Friday and the cross. Jesus' death on the cross accomplishes what we can't accomplish for ourselves...forgiveness of our sins once and for all time. It is through Jesus' selfless sacrifice a "Divine Reversal" takes place. The cross is no longer a symbol of death...it is a symbol of hope and life.

If we keep this in mind...our Lenten journey becomes a joyful and positive time for spiritual renewal and growth. Fasting and prayer are important parts of our Lenten experience. However, we cannot let this lead us to morbid introspection. Let's consider the words of Psalm 51:

Be merciful to me, O God, because of your constant love. Because of your great mercy wipe away my sins!

Create a pure heart in me, O God, and put a new and loyal spirit in me. (GNB, Psalm 51. vs 1, 10)

There is no question Good Friday was the darkest day in human history. There is nothing even remotely humorous about the Crucifixion. The darkness of Good Friday is replaced by the light of Jesus' Resurrection on Easter Day. Sorrow gets replaced by unspeakable joy...and that makes Good Friday...Good!

Whatever spiritual discipline we take on during Lent must lead us to positive spiritual growth. The Parish's Liturgical observances during lent and Passiontide provide opportunities to come together to reflect on how we can better offer "our selves, our souls, and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice" to God. (*Book of Common Prayer, Page 81*).

The Hymnal provides many hymns...sung prayers...that are powerful meditations during Lent:

*In the cross of Christ I glory,
Towering o'er the wreck of time;
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.*

*Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
By the cross are sanctified:
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.*

(Hymn 336, vs 1, 4, Hymnal 1940)

Lent is about God's redemption of mankind. Lent is about the Cross leading us to the Light of Christ...and everlasting life.

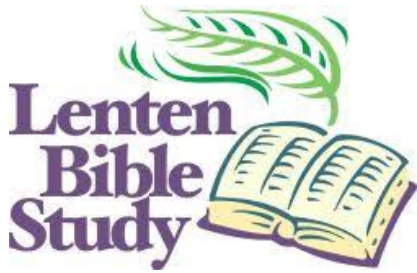
The Cross...is our Divine Reversal!

Father Craig Looney+



12:15 PM – Blessing and Imposition of Ashes
Low Mass and Homily

6:00 PM – Penitential Office, Imposition of
Ashes, Low Mass and Homily



Our Sunday Discussion Group this year will be a Bible Study of Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. In his book *The Epistle to the Ephesians*, noted Scottish Evangelical author and theologian F.F. Bruce (1910-1990), called Ephesians "quintessential Paul".

While we will not be reading Mr. Bruce's book, we will discover the importance Paul's Letter to the Ephesians has played in shaping our understanding of "God's glorious purpose" in drawing us together in Christ.

We will meet in the Library following Coffee Hour on the six Lenten Sundays including Palm Sunday. We will be reading one chapter per week using the Good News Bible.



The Ember Days (from the Latin *quatuor tempora*...four times) are four sets of three days each (Wednesday, Friday and Saturday) occurring roughly at the Four Seasons. The Lenten Ember Days are fixed on the Wednesday, Friday and Saturday after Ash Wednesday. The Ember Days are days of fasting and prayer with special intentions for the increase in vocations to the priesthood. The Collect, Epistle and Gospel for the Ember Days begin on Page 260 in the *Book of Common Prayer*.



9:00 AM - Morning Prayer, Litany for the Church and Evangelism, Quiet Meditation



Palm Sunday

9:00 AM – Palm Sunday Liturgy and Procession, The Passion According to Matthew, Coffee Hour, Bible Study

Wednesday

9:00 AM - Morning Prayer, Litany for Church and Evangelism, Quiet Meditation

Maundy Thursday

6:00 PM – Liturgy for Maundy Thursday, Procession to Altar of Repose, Stripping of the Altar***

***Following the Stripping of the Altar, all leave in silence. There is no scheduled Watch at the Altar of Repose. Please notify the Rector should you wish to remain for a time following the Maundy Thursday Liturgy. The Church will also be open at 10:00 AM Good Friday for those who wish to spend time in prayer and reflection before the Blessed Sacrament.

Good Friday

10:00 AM – Church open for meditation

12:00 PM – Liturgy for Good Friday will include hymns, Psalms, The Passion According to John, Sermon, and the Mass of the Pre-Sanctified

Saint Joseph's Day...

March 19 is Saint Joseph's Day and our Patronal Festival. His feast day always occurs during Lent. This year March 19 is the Fourth Sunday in Lent. We will commemorate Saint Joseph's Day the Collect appointed for his feast day at our regular 9:00 AM Parish Mass.



APCM Highlights

The Annual Parish Corporation Meeting (APCM) of Saint Joseph Parish was held on Sunday, January 29, 2023 immediately following the 9:00 AM Parish Mass. A total of 15 of 20 voting members were present or had submitted a proxy. It was determined a quorum was present.

Old Business...

Senior Warden, Lindsay Pettit, chaired the meeting. The Rector was unable to attend and was home recuperating from the flu. Father Herb gave the Invocation.

Marcia Rayher, Clerk-of-the-Vestry, presented the Minutes of the January 30, 2022 APCM. The Minutes were reviewed and approved.

Candyce Francis, Treasurer, presented the 2022 Financial Report. The Financial Report was approved as presented.

Rector's Annual Pastoral Report...

Saint Joseph Parish was founded 46 years ago to invite people into a personal relationship with God as he has revealed himself to us through Jesus. That was our mission then; it is our mission now. Much has happened in the life of our parish over the past 46 years. Where do we go from here?

Let's start with a brief overview of where we are now. 2022 was indeed a remarkable year. We are still in a global pandemic...but Parish life has returned to mostly a pre-pandemic normal.

We have witnessed consistent Sunday attendance. We welcomed two new members into our parish family. Total attendance was 8% higher than 2021; total Communion was 6% higher than 2021. Seasonal Morning Prayer services have been well received. We saw several visitors at our two Christmas Masses.

Our Sunday Discussion Group continues to be well attended. A highlight last year was the exploration of the lives and work of the Twelve Apostles. The Sunday Discussion Group is a hallmark of the Parish's spiritual life.

We enjoyed the October 23 visit from Bishop Stephen Scarlett. He has always remarked about the special place Saint Joseph Parish holds in his heart.

What makes Saint Joseph Parish work is the spirit of volunteerism. When something needs to be done...it gets done.

The generosity of the evidence by much higher Pledge Income over budgeted amount left us in a better financial state than expected. We still do have challenges ahead.

I'm grateful for the assistance of Father Herbert Plimpton. On the occasions he is away on a Sunday...I have to remember what I'm supposed to do next. His help in decorating the church for Christmas was invaluable. Father Herb...we love you and are so happy you are part of our parish family.

Our Altar Guild members, Nan Halliday and Marcia Rayher, work hard to set things up for Sunday Mass and take care of the linens and candles used at the Altar. I've recently noticed Jack Halliday has been "volunteered" to assist the Altar Guild.

We have an exceptional Vestry. My profound thanks go out to Senior Warden Lindsay Pettit, Junior Warden Dawn Cutler, Treasurer Candyce Francis, Clerk-of-the-Vestry Marcia Rayher, and Member-at-Large Phil Mancini, for their tireless work. It's all done with love for the Parish.

Thanks to Rebekah Shapiro for her work on the Parish Library and wonderful articles which appear from time-to-time in the Parish Times. Recent editions to the Parish Library include several DVDs of the 1985 dedication of the church building.

Thanks to Ginger Dahlberg and the "Kitchen Cabinet". Sunday coffee and fellowship is truly and enjoyable time for all and tasty treats are guaranteed. I'm still waiting for the recipe for Ginger's famous egg salad sandwiches.

What really makes Saint Joseph Parish a treasure is the people...all of you...I have been given the great privilege of serving as your Rector. We come together each Sunday to pray, sing and fellowship together. We do so with joy...blessed by the peace that transcends worldly peace...because it is the peace that comes from God and lives in our hearts. We don't try to explain that peace...we simply experience it. We try to love each other as Church...people called together. Isn't that as it should be?

Where do we go from here? First we can say it is OK to ask that question. It's also OK to say we don't have all the answers...and ask God for guidance in finding our way.

And he will!

Father Craig Looney+
Rector

Senior Warden's Report...

Let me start by thanking Father Craig and Father Herb for all their wonderful care both spiritually and emotionally throughout the year. Father Craig and Father Herb took wonderful vacations, and I hope they will both be doing that again this summer.

I also want to thank the members of the Vestry for all their help:

Dawn - for always being there, if I am away and helping with security consultation,

Marcia - for her amazing accuracy and detailed Vestry notes,

Candyce - for her keeping the books in order,

Phil - for being able to step in and go to the church when I am at work and also having knowledge of people to come and do particular jobs around the church,

Rebekah - although not on the Vestry, for her work in the library and being our Counsel of Record.

We accomplished a number of things last year at the church:

The Rector's Office was painted,

The grandmother clock was transported to the church from the Brewer's home and serviced, and now stands in the Rector's Office,

Outdoor lighting was upgraded so that the church is well illuminated at night,

The downstairs hallway was painted and a water leak repaired,

In August the floors were cleaned and polished,

Some of the stained glass in the church was repaired,

A new AED machine was bought and at some coffee hour, Dawn and I will demonstrate how to use it,

We gave \$575.00 to Call Primrose,

Finally we will be renegotiating the Gazelle School lease in August.

Projects for the coming year include:

Removing the old skylights and resealing and replacing them with new ones,

Repairing and painting areas of wood rot on the outside of the building,

Add a new security system of cameras that Dawn will help us with,

Cleaning out the Pump Room and possibly a power wash of the church.

Lastly, I wish to pay homage to Bishop John Cahoon and Father John Altberg, who paved the way for our amazing parish and church.

Lindsay Pettit
Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Report...

I'd like to start by thanking Father Looney and Father Plimpton for their dedication to us and our Parish on a daily basis. I'd also like to acknowledge Lindsay and Phil for going "above and beyond" in helping both financially and having the resources to do so many projects that needed to be attended to over this past year.

Next, I'd like to thank each of you for doing your part in keeping our Parish up and running. We may be small in numbers, but we are mighty! If we weren't, we wouldn't be here right now.

If you had asked me five years ago where I thought we'd be in five years, sadly I'd have said I didn't believe we would still be here at 770 North El Camino Real in San Mateo.

I just didn't think we could keep things going well enough to keep our church doors open. Not because we don't care but because of the financial amount it takes to keep a building this age going on a day-to-day basis.

I for one am very, very happy that we are still here....but I also realize it will take a lot for us to keep going for the next five years. There are a number of projects, some big and many small that we will need to tackle to keep our doors open.

Please keep this in mind when you think about how you can help St. Joseph Parish in the future. When it comes to heart and love for our church this group right here is #1. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Dawn Cutler
Junior Warden

New Business...

Candyce Francis, presented the 2023 Proposed Budget to the Parish. After a brief discussion, the Proposed Budget was approved.

The 2014 Amendment to our Parish By-laws permits Vestry members whose terms are set expire at the APCM to extend their terms for one year. Lindsay Pettit, Candyce Francis and Marcia Rayher, agreed to have their terms extended for one year. A motion was made, seconded and carried by unanimous vote to extend Lindsay's, Candyce's and Marcia's terms for one year.

Lindsay will continue to serve as Senior Warden. Candyce will continue to serve as Treasurer. Marcia will continue to serve as Clerk-of-the-Vestry.

Father Herb gave the Blessing at the conclusion of the APCM.

Diocesan Synod

The Diocese of the Holy Trinity will hold its Annual Synod at Saint Matthew's Parish, Newport Beach CA, on June 8-9. The Clergy will meet on Thursday June 8 and the General Synod will meet on Friday, June 9.



Librarian's Notes for Lent and Easter By Rebekah Shapiro

Library policies published in previous editions of the *Parish Times* have been collected in a red folder near the check-out notebook in the Library. Consult this folder if you have questions about checking out materials, donations or other Library policies. If you're looking for some fiction, the folder also contains an 8-page list of novels with Anglican connections. The Library has a handful of these books, but most are also available from public libraries. (I did not prepare the list and cannot recommend every title in it.)

A friend outside the Parish inspired me to work on the Library's holdings regarding art. In addition to books regarding topics like flower arranging, vestments and church architecture, the Library now has several easy-to-use books of fine art in both the art and Bible studies sections. I will write about the new prints of St. John Chrysostom and St. Anne teaching the Blessed Virgin Mary in a future edition of the *Parish Times*.

Hopefully, the books inspire you to see some fine art in person. From June to September, the Legion of Honor museum in San Francisco will be hosting an exhibition titled "The Tudors: Art and Majesty in Renaissance England." The exhibition preview notes, "The Tudor period in England saw the end of medieval feudalism, the rise of absolute monarchy, the English Renaissance, the Protestant Reformation, and the expansion of maritime trade." If we get a group of at least 10 together, we can arrange a special tour of the exhibition for Parish members and friends and have fun telling the docent the real story about that "absolute monarchy" and "Protestant Reformation." (I'm kidding about that last part.) Let me know if you would be interested in forming part of such a group.

The Church history section is right next to the art section in the Library, and the expansion of the art section made me note how thin the Church history section was, but no more! Thanks to several excellent donations by Fr. Plimpton, the Church history section is now a deep resource on Anglican history, especially our Anglo-Catholic tradition.

But we can still do better! The following is a wish list, developed over several months, of books with special importance to St. Joseph Parish:

- *This Old Church: The Indispensable Guide for Restoring Church Buildings*, by Ion Grumeza;

while the focus of this book is major restoration projects, hopefully it has useful information for maintenance and minor repairs as well

- *Chronicles of Transformation: A Spiritual Journey with C.S. Lewis*, by Leonard J. DeLorenzo; recommended by Fr. Looney; the Roman publisher describes this book as "a collaborative work between scholars and artists, aimed to open adult readers' eyes and hearts to the transformative power of Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia"
- *Planet Narnia: The Seven Heavens in the Imagination of C.S. Lewis*, by Michael Ward, a similar treatment to the above, from a less Roman perspective

Age-Friendly San Mateo News Home Repair Programs

Several home repair programs are available to qualifying homeowners in San Mateo.

Help for minor projects, such as exterior painting, minor plumbing and electrical work or window repair and replacement is available through three non-profit providers:

- Rebuilding Together Peninsula
- The Center for The Independence of Individuals with Disabilities
- El Concilio of San Mateo

See.....<https://www.cityofsanmateo.org/DocumentCenter/View/48628/Home-Repair-Flyer>.

For larger projects, such as major system updates, disability modifications and general property improvements related to health and safety or code compliance, there is the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program.

See.....<https://www.cityofsanmateo.org/DocumentCenter/View/82708/CALHOME-Info-Flyer-002>.

Call at (650) 522-7220 or check.....
<https://www.cityofsanmateo.org/3895/Home-Repair-Programs> for more information. Income limits apply. For these programs, "low income" in San Mateo currently is \$104,400 annually for a one-person household.

This information is brought to you by the City of San Mateo Age-Friendly Task Force. Watch this spot for future articles highlighting one of the many valuable services offered to seniors by various organizations and agencies in San Mateo.

Disclaimer: The Rector, Wardens and Vestry of Saint Joseph Parish assume no responsibility or liability for any errors or omissions in the content of the above article. The information contained in the article is provided solely as a service to our readers, on an "as is" basis, with no guarantees of completeness, accuracy, usefulness or timeliness."

AED in Place



We have a new AED Machine in place in the Narthex. It is mounted to the left of the stained glass window. The machine is “user-friendly”. However, during a coffee hour in the near future, Lindsay Pettit and Dawn Cutler will demonstrate how to use the machine. Ample notice will be given about the date the demonstration will take place.

A Form of Intercession

Accept, O Lord, our intercessions for all mankind.

Let the light of thy Gospel shine upon all nations.

Be gracious unto thy Church; and grant that every member of the same, in his vocation and ministry, may serve thee faithfully.

Bless all in authority over us (*especially...*) and so rule their hearts and strengthen their hands, that they may punish wickedness and vice, and maintain thy true religion and virtue.

Send down thy blessings, temporal and spiritual, upon all our relations, friends, and neighbors.

Reward all who have done us good, and pardon all those who have done or wish us evil, and give them repentance and better minds.

Be merciful to all who are in any ways afflicted, or distressed, in mind, body or estate (*especially...*) Comfort and relieve them according to their several necessities.

Have mercy upon the faithful departed (*especially...*) And grant them an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of thy saints.

For his sake who went about doing good, thy Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Fax No More

Our fax line has been cancelled. Effective Wednesday, February 8, the 650 347 5196 fax number no longer works. The cancellation of the seldom-used fax line will save the Parish several hundred dollars per year.



THE NEXT ISSUE...

The next issue of *The Parish Times* will be the Easter-Pentecost 2023 edition. The target date for publication and distribution is April 3. If you have an article or announcement you wish published, please submit it via e-mail or in writing by March 31. All submissions are subject to space limitations and editing by the Rector. All submissions must be free of partisan politics...whether Church or secular.



Find us on Facebook at: **Saint Joseph Parish – San Mateo CA**

Schedule

Sundays – 9:00 AM Parish Mass & Sermon
Coffee Hour and Discussion Group
Weekdays/Holy Days as announced
Sacrament of Penance by Appointment

The Reverend Father Craig Looney, Rector
The Reverend Father Herbert Plimpton, MD, Assisting

THE CONTINUATION OF ANGLICANISM: We affirm that the Church of our fathers, sustained by the most Holy Trinity, lives yet...are determined to continue in the Catholic Faith, Apostolic Order, Orthodox Worship and Evangelical Witness of the traditional Anglican Church.

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